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United Nations Children's Fund
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Agenda items 8 and 9

Draft decision submitted to the Executive Board

Evaluation reports and management responses and revised evaluation policy of UNICEF

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the annual report for 2017 on the evaluation function in UNICEF (E/ICEF/2018/15);

2. *Welcomes* the good progress on evaluation of UNICEF activities, but notes with concern that spending on evaluation as a percentage of total programme expenditure decreased in 2017 and has consistently failed over recent years to reach the target of 1 per cent of programme expenditure as set out in the UNICEF evaluation policy and emphasized in previous Executive Board decisions, and therefore requests UNICEF to reach the target by the end of 2019;

3. *Notes* that the thematic distribution of evaluations in the period 2014–2016 shows a sharp drop in the number of sector-specific evaluations for education and child protection, and calls on UNICEF to ensure a stable delivery rate;

4. *Welcomes* the improvement in the evaluation coverage of cross-cutting themes, and requests UNICEF to include gender equality as a cross-cutting theme in all evaluations and to increase the coverage rate of humanitarian action to one that better reflects the current overall spending of UNICEF in contexts of conflicts and crises;

5. *Takes note* of the reported number of evaluations submitted per region, and requests UNICEF, for especially those regions with the largest programme expenses, to significantly increase evaluation coverage;

6. *Requests* that future annual reports be structured around the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 (policy areas and spending) and the revised evaluation policy of UNICEF;

7. *Recalls* its decision 2018/2, and takes note of the importance of joint evaluations with other entities, including joint evaluation of the common chapter of the strategic plans of the funds and programmes, and calls on the Evaluation Office and UNICEF to brief the Executive Board at its second regular session of 2018 on planning for

this joint evaluation as part of its contribution to broader collaboration on joint evaluations of system-wide activities and to the function of system-wide independent evaluation measures;

8. *Takes note* of the evaluation of UNICEF strategies and programmes to reduce stunting in children under 5 years of age and its executive summary (E/ICEF/2018/16), looks forward to the implementation of the actions described in the management response, and requests an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the evaluation at the annual session of the Executive Board in 2019;

9. *Welcomes* the final proposal for the revised evaluation policy of UNICEF (E/ICEF/2018/14);

10. *Also welcomes* the open and constructive collaboration with Member States in the development of the revised evaluation policy;

11. *Requests* UNICEF to fully implement consistently the revised evaluation policy across all areas of the organization, including different policy areas at headquarters and at the field level, including capacity-building at the country and programme levels;

12. *Endorses* the revised evaluation policy.